UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MAINE

FORTIS BANK (NEDERLAND) N.V.,)
Plaintiff,)
MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY, et al.,)
Intervenor Plaintiffs)
v.) Civil No. 04-147-P-S
M/V SHAMROCK AND COPROPRIETE DU NAVIRE SHAMROCK,)
Defendants and)
COMATRANS, S.A. SP CONTAINER LINE SA, and SNC SHAMROCK GESTION,)))
Parties-in-Interest.)

ORDER

Before the Court is the Expedited Motion of Fortis Bank (Nederland) N.V. for Interlocutory Sale of the M/V Shamrock (Docket # 70). The Court has reviewed all submissions made in connection with this Motion. In connection with that review, the Court notes that it has GRANTED Defendants' Motion for Leave to File a Memorandum of Law in Opposition in Excess of Page Limit (Docket # 104), Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to File Consolidated Reply (Docket # 124), Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Exceed the Page Limitations for Reply (Docket # 131) and the "Lien Creditors" Joint Motion for Leave to Reply to Owners' Opposition to Interlocutory Sale and to Exceed Page Limit (Docket # 136).

Having considered the filings of the parties made pursuant to these motions as well as all other relevant filings in their entirety, the Court DENIES WITHOUT PREJUDICE the Expedited Motion for Interlocutory Sale of the M/V Shamrock. The Court's ruling is based on its failure to presently conclude either: (1) that the M/V Shamrock is liable to deterioration, decay or injury by being detained, (2) that the expense of keeping and maintaining the M/V shamrock is excessive or disproportionate, or (3) that there is an unreasonable delay in securing

the release of the property. <u>See</u> Rule E(9)(b)(i) of the Federal Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims ("Supplemental Rules"). Rather, the Court finds that the owners of the M/V Shamrock are entitled to some additional time to attempt to secure release of the vessel.

Nonetheless, the Court ORDERS that on or before noon on Friday, September 10, 2004 all interested parties may and shall provide the Court with a status report addressing any or all recent developments related to the above three factors. The Court will reconsider its ruling on the Expedited Motion for Interlocutory Sale of the M/V Shamrock in light of these status reports. In connection with this reconsideration, the Court tentatively schedules oral argument on the issue of expedited sale of the M/V Shamrock for 1 p.m. on Monday, September 13, 2004. Counsel should understand and be prepared for the possibility that the Court will issue an Order for Interlocutory Sale on that day if it concludes that any of the criteria of Supplemental Rule E (9)(b)(i) are then satisfied.

SO ORDERED.

/s/ George Z. Singal Chief U.S. District Judge

Dated this 31st day of August, 2004.

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¹ To the extent that this opportunity to file a status report will give Defendants an opportunity to respond to the material arguments and allegations raised in the various reply memoranda, Defendants' Alternative Motion for Leave to File Surreply Memoranda (Docket # 140) is GRANTED IN PART. However, all parties should be advised that the Court does not intend to give the parties an opportunity to file written responses to the September 10th submissions in advance of the September 13th oral argument.

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